1	
2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	X CONGREGATION RABBINICAL COLLEGE OF
4	TARTIKOV, INC., RABBI MORDECHAI BABAD, RABBI WOLF BRIEF, RABBI
5	HERMEN KAHANA, RABBI MEIR MARGULIS, RABBI GERGELY NEUMAN, RABBI MEILECH
6	MENCZER, RABBI JACOB HERSHKOWITZ, RABBI CHAIM ROSENBERG, RABBI DAVID A.
7	MENCZER, and RABBI ARYEH ROYDE, Plaintiffs,
8	07-CV8304
9	-against- (KMK)
	VILLAGE OF POMONA, NY; BOARD OF
10	TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POMONA,
11	NY; NICHOLAS SANDERSON AS MAYOR; IAN BANKS as Trustee and in his
11	official capacity, ALMA SANDERS
12	ROMAN as Trustee and in her official
	capacity, RITA LOUIE as Trustee and
13	in her official capacity, and BRETT YAGEL, as Trustee and in his official
14	capacity,
	Defendants.
15	X
16	May 16, 2014 9:30 a.m.
17	
18	EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL of the Defendant, ALMA SANDERS ROMAN, taken
19	pursuant to Notice, held at the offices of Savad Churgin, 55 Old Turnpike Road, Nanuet,
20	New York, before a Notary Public within and for the State of New York.
21	
22	* * *
23	SANDY SAUNDERS REPORTING 254 South Main Street, Suite 216
24	New City, New York 10956 (845) 634-7561
25	

1	
2	APPEARANCES:
3	
4	SAVAD CHURGIN
5	Attorneys for Plaintiffs 55 Old Nyack Turnpike
6	Suite 209 Nanuet, New York 10954
7	
8	BY: DONNA C. SOBEL, ESQ.  JOHN G. STEPANOVICH, ESQ.
9	DODINGON C. GOLD. LLD.
10	ROBINSON & COLE, LLP Attorneys for Defendants
11	1055 Washington Boulevard 9th Floor
12	Stamford, Connecticut 06901
13	BY: JOHN F. X. PELOSO, JR., ESQ.
14	DODIG EL WINN EGO
15	DORIS F. ULMAN, ESQ.  Attorney for The Village of Pomona
16	134 Camp Hill Road Pomona, New York 10970
17	
18	* * *
19	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	
2	
3	
4	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED
5	by and between the attorneys for the
6	respective parties hereto that filing and
7	sealing are hereby waived.
8	
9	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
10	that all objections, except as to the
11	form of the question, shall be reserved
12	to the time of the trial.
13	
14	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
15	that the within examination may be signed
16	and sworn to before any Notary Public
17	with the same force and effect as though
18	signed and sworn to before this Court.
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                (At the request of Ms. Sobel the
 3
         following document was marked.)
                (Whereupon, Notice of Deposition was
 4
         marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 230 for
 5
         identification.)
 6
 7
     ALMA
               SANDERS
                               R O M A N, a Defendant
 8
          herein, having been first duly sworn by Gale
 9
          Salit, a Notary Public of the State of New
10
          York, was examined and testified as follows:
11
                THE REPORTER: May I have your full
12
         name, please?
13
                THE WITNESS: Alma Sanders Roman.
14
                THE REPORTER: May I have your
15
         address?
16
                THE WITNESS: 5 Camp Hill Road,
17
         Pomona, New York 10970.
18
     EXAMINATION BY
19
     MS. SOBEL:
20
         Q
                Good morning, Mrs. Roman.
21
                Good morning.
         Α
22
                My name is Donna Sobel. You've seen
         0
23
     me before?
24
         Α
                Yes.
25
                This is John Stepanovich. We are two
         Q
```

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. of the lawyers --3 Α That I hadn't seen before. Okay. We are two of the lawyers for 4 0 5 plaintiff Congregation Rabbinical College of Tartikov, Inc. and the rest of the plaintiffs in 6 7 this lawsuit. This is the court reporter who 8 will be taking down everything that you say. 9 Have you ever been deposed before? 10 Α A long time ago, yes. 11 So I'm going over some of the ground Q 12 rules just to refresh you. 13 Α Yes. 14 Q Everything that you say she will take 15 down and everything that I say she will take 16 So it's important that you let me finish 17 my questions and then I will also let you finish 18 your answers rather than jumping on each other 19 and speaking over one another. 20 If at any time you don't understand a 21 question that I'm asking, please ask me and I 22 will either have her read it back or I will 23 repeat it. Also, you are nodding your head right 24 now. But when I ask questions I'll actually need

you to make sure that you make a verbal response

25

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. so that she can take it down. Because she won't 3 be able to take down head nods, only anything that she hears. Is that okay? 4 5 Α Okay. MR. PELOSO: One thing I would add is 6 if counsel asks a question if you would give 7 me a moment or two, I might object or not. 8 I might object during the course of the 10 deposition, but unless I tell you not to 11 answer the question please answer the 12 question. 13 Do you understand that you took an 14 oath to testify truthfully today? 15 Α Yes. 16 And do you understand that these 0 17 answers may be used at trial? 18 Α Yes. 19 Your attorney already went over the 0 20 fact that he may make an objection, so we will 21 deal with that if and when it happens. 22 If at any time you want to take a 23 break, just let me know and we can accommodate 24 that, that's no problem. 25 Have you taken any medications today

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     that will interfere with your ability to be a
 3
     part of this deposition or to answer these
 4
     questions?
 5
         Α
                No.
 6
         Q
                Okay, great.
 7
                Is there any other reason that you
 8
     feel that you cannot accurately testify today?
 9
                No.
         Α
10
                Okay, good.
         0
11
                You've already stated your name and
12
     address for the record.
13
                You're here today pursuant to a notice
14
     of deposition. I'm going to hand you what's been
     marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 230. If you could
15
16
     just look at that?
17
         Α
                (Complying.)
18
                Just let me know if you've seen that
         0
19
              Do you know if you've ever seen this
     before.
     document before?
20
21
                I don't recall seeing it.
         Α
22
                Okay. But you were told by somebody
         0
23
     that you needed to appear today for a deposition?
24
                I was told by the attorney.
         Α
25
                      Don't tell me what an attorney
         Q
                Yes.
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
     told you.
                That's fine.
 3
                Are you currently employed?
         Α
                Yes.
 4
 5
         Q
                Where are you employed?
 6
         Α
                Finkelstein Memorial Library, 24
 7
     Chestnut Street, Spring Valley, New York 10977.
 8
                How long have you been working there?
         Q
                Longer than I can remember.
         Α
10
         0
                Okay, that's fair.
11
                As far as the Village of Pomona goes,
12
     you're currently a trustee, correct?
13
         Α
                Yes.
14
         Q
                How long have you been a trustee?
15
         Α
                About ten years.
16
                What other positions did you hold in
         0
17
     the village?
18
         Α
                I've just had one.
19
                Well, you were on the planning board,
         0
20
     weren't you?
21
         Α
                No.
22
         0
                You weren't on the planning board in
     the late nineties?
23
24
                I was on the planning board, but not
25
     in Pomona.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Okay, we'll get back to that.
         0
 3
                And you were once, I think as a
     trustee you were on the ethics board?
 4
                It ran simul -- yes, yes.
 5
         Α
 6
         0
                Is that normally how it works, that
 7
     trustees serve as members of the ethics board
 8
     also?
         Α
                Yes.
10
                How long were you on the ethics board?
         0
11
                I don't remember quite the date.
         Α
12
     Probably within the last -- I don't remember
13
     quite the date. I just don't remember the date.
14
                But you're not on the ethics board
         Q
15
     now?
16
                It's the same board.
         Α
17
                What is the ethics board?
         0
                The ethics board is a board that
18
         Α
19
     determines or answers questions as to people's
     involvement in the village business.
20
21
                Do you meet regularly or only when an
         O
22
     issue is brought to you?
23
                Only when an issue is brought to us.
24
                What type of issues are brought to
         0
25
     you?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
         Α
                Usually issues of whether or not --
 3
     conflict of interest is the only one we've had.
 4
         0
                Are those meetings open to the public
 5
     or are they closed?
                They are opened, yes.
 6
         Α
 7
         0
                Is a record made of the meetings?
                Not to -- we've only had one or two,
 8
     so I don't know.
10
                Who else serves on the ethics board
         0
11
     with you?
12
                One other trustee who is no longer
     there. Lamer I think. I don't know who else.
13
14
     It's kind of a -- I don't know.
15
                But if there were a conflict of
         0
16
     interest, that board, you would still be dealing
17
     with that?
18
         Α
                Yes.
19
                Okay. All right, great.
         0
20
                As far as meetings go, the village
21
     meets, the trustees meet twice a month; is that
22
     correct?
23
                Correct, yes.
24
                One is a workshop and one is a regular
25
     board meeting?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                Can you explain the difference?
         Q
                One is preparation and one is actual
 4
         Α
     fact.
 5
 6
                When you say actual fact, what do you
 7
     mean?
         Α
                When you deliberate in the interest of
     the village.
10
                Do you attend other meetings as a
         0
11
     trustee? I know you already talked about the
12
     ethics board, that you attend those. Are there
13
     any other meetings that you are required to
14
     attend?
15
         Α
                No.
16
                Are there any committees that you
         0
17
     oversee?
18
                That's the only committee.
         Α
19
                Do you ever have joint meetings with
         0
     the planning board or the zoning board?
20
21
         Α
                Personally?
22
                As a trustee, the board.
         Q
                MR. PELOSO: Do you understand the
23
24
         question?
25
                I don't. Other meetings I don't
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     understand.
 3
         0
                Now I'll rephrase it, no problem.
                Does the board ever have joint
 4
     meetings with another committee such as the
 5
     planning board or the zoning board?
 6
 7
                About once a year.
         Α
 8
                Did you do anything to prepare for
         0
     this deposition today?
10
         Α
                Prayed.
11
                You prayed, okay. I think hopefully
         Q
12
     your prayers will be answered.
13
                Did you speak with anybody other than
14
     your lawyer about the deposition?
15
         Α
                No.
16
                Did you meet with your lawyer? And
         0
17
     don't reveal the contents of it if you did.
     did you meet with your lawyer?
18
19
         Α
                Yes.
20
         Q
                When did you meet?
21
                I think it was yesterday.
         Α
22
         0
                Was anyone else present during that
23
     conversation?
24
                Just the lawyers.
         Α
25
                Did you bring any documents here with
         Q
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
     you today?
 3
                I don't have any, no.
         Α
                Did you review any documents in
 4
         0
     preparation for today?
 5
 6
         Α
                No.
 7
         0
                Great. So you just said a minute ago
 8
     you don't have any documents?
 9
         Α
                No.
                My question is: Why don't you have
10
         0
11
     any documents, did you give them to somebody?
12
                MR. PELOSO: She said there's no
         documents here today.
13
14
                Did you ever have documents that
         Q
15
     relate to the Congregation Rabbinical College of
16
     Tartikov?
17
         Α
                No.
18
                Did you ever have any documents that
         0
19
     relate to the laws that were passed in, let's
     say, 2007? There are two laws at issue in this
20
21
     case, Local Law No. 1 of 2007 and Local Law No. 5
22
     of 2007. Did you ever have any documents about
23
     those?
24
         Α
                Yes.
25
                Do you still have those documents?
         Q
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
         Α
                No.
 3
                Where are they now?
         Q
                At village hall.
 4
         Α
 5
         Q
                Did you give them to somebody at
 6
     village hall?
 7
         Α
                Everybody had document -- yes, yes. I
 8
     didn't personally give them, but it was an email
     document and everybody got it.
10
                What do you mean it was an email
         0
11
     document?
12
                I mean we got the documents by email
13
     and then there is a copy in the village hall.
14
         Q
                There's a copy in the village hall.
15
                I don't keep personal materials of the
16
     village at home.
17
                What about any emails that you sent to
         Q
18
     somebody?
19
                I didn't send anything to anybody.
         Α
20
         Q
                You didn't send anything to anybody?
21
         Α
                No.
22
                You receive emails but you don't send
         Q
23
     emails out?
24
         Α
                No.
25
                Do you take notes at village meetings?
         Q
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
         Α
                Occasionally, yes.
 3
                Were those notes turned over to your
         0
 4
     counsel?
 5
         Α
                They were -- no.
 6
         0
                You made a hand gesture.
 7
     happened to them?
 8
                After the meeting we don't normally
     keep the minutes nor the documents.
10
                You throw them out?
         0
11
                We sent them to village hall.
         Α
12
                You send them to village hall.
         0
                                                 So
13
     your notes are sent --
14
                Very little notes do I have. And it's
         Α
     marked on the documents and they are
15
16
     (indicating).
17
                So you send them to village hall. Do
         Q
18
     you know what happens to them then?
19
         Α
                No.
                Who do you give them to?
20
         Q
21
                I don't give them to anybody. It's
         Α
22
     just at the meeting I sort of got rid of the
23
     materials and wait for the next meeting.
24
                But when you say get rid of them, are
25
     you throwing them out?
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
         Α
                I shred them.
 3
                You shred them. At village hall?
         0
                Yes.
 4
         Α
                So there's a shredder in the office at
 5
         Q
 6
     village hall?
 7
         Α
                Yes.
 8
         0
                Do the other trustees do the same
     thing?
10
                I can't answer for them. I don't
11
     know.
12
                You said you've been a trustee for
         Q
     about ten years. Do you know the exact date you
13
14
     started?
15
                Of course I don't remember.
16
                You don't know the exact date you
         0
17
     started, okay.
18
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
19
         marked.)
20
                (Whereupon, Memo dated 8/29/07, Bates
21
         Nos. POM0007310-14, was marked Plaintiff's
         Exhibit 231 for identification.)
22
23
                You've just been handed a document
24
     that's been marked as Plaintiff's 231. If you
25
     can please take a look at it?
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                 (Complying.)
 3
                And if you could let me know if you've
         Q
 4
     ever seen this document before?
                No, I have not seen it before.
 5
         Α
                Did you ever receive a document
 6
         Q
 7
     similar to this that talked about a document
     hold?
 8
 9
         Α
                No.
10
                For this lawsuit?
         0
11
         Α
                No.
12
                Do you have a personal email address?
         Q
13
         Α
                Yes.
14
                What is it?
         Q
15
         Α
                It's aroman@rcls.org.
16
                I'm sorry, at what?
         Q
17
                Rcls.org. R as in Richard C as in
         Α
18
     Cary.
19
                What does that stand for?
         0
20
         Α
                Ramapo Catskill Library System.
21
                So is that your work email?
         0
22
                That's my only email.
         Α
23
                So you use it for both work and
         Q
24
     personal?
25
         Α
                Yes.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
                How long have you had that email
         0
 3
     address?
                I don't remember. A long time.
 4
         Α
     don't remember.
 5
 6
                So when you told me before that you
 7
     get emails, the agenda or a proposed local law,
 8
     does it get emailed to this email address?
                Yes, anything I get is to that
10
     address.
11
                Do you also have a village email
         Q
12
     address?
13
                No, I don't have -- I don't.
         Α
14
                There's not even an email address that
         Q
15
     maybe things get forwarded to you? I mean
16
     @pomonavillage or something?
17
                No, I don't get that.
         Α
18
         0
                So tell me about what made you decide
19
     to run to be a board member of the Village of
20
     Pomona?
21
                It's a civic duty.
         Α
22
         Q
                What do you mean by that?
23
                You want to help the place you live.
24
     Civic means, you know. It's a civic duty.
25
                When you say help the place you live,
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     how do you know if you're helping?
 3
         Α
                Well, the law -- when you participate
 4
     you help.
 5
         Q
                So you're participating by voting?
                Yes, I vote.
 6
         Α
 7
                Do you speak to your constituents to
         O
 8
     see what types of things they are interested in?
                Yes.
         Α
10
                How do you do that?
11
                I walk around the village and meet
         Α
12
     people at the supermarket or wherever.
13
                Do you take that into consideration
14
     when you vote on laws?
15
         Α
                Yes.
16
                Do residents ever stop you to talk to
         0
17
     you about different laws or different things they
     want to see happen?
18
19
                No, they greet you, but not about
         Α
20
     different laws. They are concerned with the tax
21
     or the garbage or something, but not laws.
22
                Do residents come to meetings to speak
         0
23
     sometimes?
24
                Sometimes, yes.
         Α
25
                Do you take their comments into
         Q
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     consideration when making decisions?
 3
         Α
                Yes.
 4
                And when voting on laws?
         0
 5
         Α
                Yes.
                How long have you lived in Rockland
 6
         Q
 7
     County?
                Since 1962.
 8
         Α
 9
                How long have you lived in Pomona?
         Q
10
                Since 1962.
         Α
11
                So before the village was formed?
         Q
12
         Α
                Yes.
13
                Has the county changed since you first
         0
14
     got here?
15
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form as
16
         vague.
17
                Has the county changed?
         Q
18
                No.
         Α
19
                No?
         0
                No, it's the same county. It didn't
20
         Α
21
     change anything.
22
                So in terms of amount of development
         0
23
     is it changed at all, is there more development
     now than there was in 1962?
24
25
         Α
                Yes.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Residential development, more
         0
 3
     residential development?
                In Pomona it's only residential
 4
         Α
 5
     development.
 6
         0
                But I'm asking about Rockland County
 7
     in general.
 8
                Rockland County, I don't have any
     knowledge.
10
                Or in Pomona, in the general area
11
     around Pomona?
12
                There has been some changes, yes, some
     new buildings.
13
14
                Is there more traffic than there used
         0
15
     to be?
16
         Α
                Yes.
17
         Q
                Are there more stores?
18
         Α
                More stores?
19
                Not just in the village, in the
         0
20
     general area surrounding the village.
21
                They only have one -- we have no
         Α
22
     stores in the village.
23
                Right. But let's say in Ramapo, in
24
     the Town of Ramapo is it more built up than it
25
     was when you first got here?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                I would say yes.
 3
                How do you feel about all that?
         0
                That's -- I don't have an opinion.
 4
         Α
     mean, I don't have an opinion on that.
 5
 6
                Do you worry that at some point that
 7
     too much development will be too much?
 8
                I don't understand what you mean, too
 9
     much development.
10
         0
                Okay. I'll restate it.
11
                Do you worry that if there keeps being
12
     more development that it will be too much
13
     development?
14
         Α
                I don't worry.
15
                Do you have any environmental concerns
         0
16
     about living here?
17
         Α
                Yes.
18
                Can you tell me about them?
         0
19
                Roads, water.
         Α
                What about the roads and water?
20
         Q
21
                We have a large problem with our roads
         Α
22
     because they are just country roads and we
23
     continue to rehab them or try to keep them going.
24
     They are mostly two lanes and it's very difficult
25
     with the new cars and the old cars and everybody.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     So yes, I am concerned about the roads. I just
 3
     feel that they are overused.
                Now, is the concern about traffic or
 4
         0
     is it the wear and tear of the roads themselves?
 5
                Traffic.
 6
         Α
 7
                And then you said water also?
                Yes, we have some issues with water
 8
 9
     and flooding, part of the Minisceongo.
10
         0
                What's the last name you said?
11
         Α
                Minisceongo.
12
                Tell me about what those problems are.
         Q
13
                We have floods in people's basements.
         Α
     People call us and say they have floods. It's
14
15
     water level changes and so on we've had.
16
                Is there anything you attribute those
17
     water changes to?
18
                Yes, it's use.
         Α
19
                What about, have the schools changed
         0
     since you first got here?
20
21
         Α
                In Pomona?
22
         0
                Let's say the East Ramapo School
23
     District.
24
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form as
25
         vaque.
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                You can answer the question.
         Q
 3
                MR. PELOSO:
                              Answer.
                Yes.
 4
         Α
                How have they changed?
 5
         Q
                They have changed. We were sort of
 6
         Α
 7
     the number one educational institution. Now we
 8
     are down to, I think there are seven of us, and
     we are number seven.
10
                Is that in the county, seven in the
         0
11
     county?
12
         Α
                No, you asked me about --
13
                You said you're number seven.
         0
14
                Of the school districts.
         Α
                Of the school districts in the county?
15
         Q
16
                Right, yes.
         Α
17
                What do you attribute that decline to?
         Q
                I don't know.
18
         Α
19
                You don't know?
         0
20
         Α
                No.
21
                You don't have an opinion?
         O
22
                I don't know how you go from one to
         Α
23
            I don't know.
     zero.
24
                What kind of changes happened in the
25
     schools?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Academic excellence, you know, the
 3
     schools are rated by the state, and we have lost
 4
     our ratings.
                Were there cuts in programs?
 5
         0
 6
         Α
                Yes, there's been some cuts in
 7
     programs.
                What types of programs?
                Well, there have been some cuts in the
10
     secondary and the elementary. You know, each
11
     year it changes.
12
                Who made those cuts?
         Q
13
         Α
                The board and superintendent.
14
                Who comprises the board?
         Q
                There are nine members on the board.
15
         Α
16
                Do you know who those members are?
         0
17
                Personally, no.
         Α
18
                Do you know anything about those
         0
19
     members?
                No, I just know there are nine school
20
         Α
21
     board members.
22
                Do you know if they are Hasidic or
         0
23
     Orthodox Jews?
24
                Sitting where I'm sitting, how would I
25
     know?
```

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. MR. PELOSO: I'm going to object. She 3 said she doesn't know who they are, so how can she know what religion they are? 4 5 0 You can answer the question. 6 Α How would I know whether they are 7 Orthodox or Hasidic? Do you know what the traditional dress 8 of an Orthodox or Hasidic Jew is? 10 Α Not in detail, no. 11 Have you seen or ever met an Orthodox Q 12 or Hasidic Jew? 13 Α Yes. After you related to me that 14 they were Orthodox. But I can't tell by looking 15 that they're Orthodox. See, I have a different 16 issue. You can tell what I am by my color. But 17 I can't tell anybody's religion by showing up 18 unless they tell me, unless you say to me. For 19 example, I don't know whether you are or not, I don't know. 20 21 Understood. If you see a man wearing 0 22 a skull cap or a kippah, does that generally 23 indicate that they are an Orthodox Jew? 24 MR. PELOSO: Object to the form. 25 Q You can answer.

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                What about when you see a man wearing
         0
     a long black coat, maybe a black hat, does that
 4
 5
     usually indicate that they are an Orthodox or
     Hasidic Jew?
 6
 7
                I don't know.
         Α
 8
                Have you heard people talk about the
         0
     fact that there are people on the school board
10
     who send their kids to yeshivas?
11
         Α
                To me, no.
12
                You've never heard anyone say that?
         Q
13
                To me, no. No one has said that to
         Α
14
     me, no.
15
                Do you know what a yeshiva is?
         Q
16
                What a yeshiva is?
         Α
17
                What a yeshiva is.
         Q
                Yes, it's a religious school. A
18
         Α
19
     religious -- not school. A religious -- well,
     place of worship as far as I know.
20
                For Jewish children?
21
         0
22
         Α
                Uh-huh, yes.
23
                You used to serve on the East Ramapo
         0
24
     School Board?
25
         Α
                Yes.
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                When was that?
         0
 3
                That was back in the sixties, way back
         Α
 4
     then.
 5
         Q
                How come you no longer choose to do
 6
     that?
 7
                I lost the election.
         Α
 8
                Have you ever run for election again?
         Q
         Α
                No.
10
                So how come you choose not to run?
         0
                Because after I lost the election I
11
         Α
12
     didn't run again.
13
                Okay, that's fair. That's fair.
         0
14
                How about the Ramapo Town Board, has
15
     that changed over the years?
16
                I don't think so.
                                    I don't know.
         Α
17
                Have you heard the term "voting bloc"?
         Q
                Yes.
18
         Α
19
                Can you tell me what a voting bloc is?
         0
20
         Α
                It's when one group, political group
21
     votes as one person.
22
         Q
                Have you heard that term used about
23
     any group in Ramapo?
24
                No, just a generic term.
         Α
25
                So you've never heard it used to talk
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     about Hasidic or Orthodox --
 3
                No. Not to me, no.
         Α
                Do you get the sense that there is a
 4
         0
 5
     voting bloc in Ramapo elections?
 6
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
 7
         0
                You can answer.
                I just don't know. You know, because
 8
     it's a secret ballot, I don't know.
10
                Are you familiar with the concept of
         0
11
     tax exempt properties?
12
                Yes.
         Α
13
                How do you feel about them?
         0
14
                I feel that it's a village -- what is
         Α
15
     the word I want to use? I feel if it's
16
     appropriate, it's okay. It's the right to do so.
17
                You say if it's appropriate. What
         0
18
     would make it appropriate?
19
                Well, according to the statutes in the
         Α
     village, there is a certain criteria for tax
20
21
     exempt, and we use that.
22
                Do you know what that criteria is?
         Q
23
                That you have -- that you have to be
24
     of a -- we do it for religious institutions, for
25
     educational institutions. That's what we do in
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     the village if I recall. I'd have to get the
 3
     statute here. But that's usually what comes to
 4
          If you open a church or a synagogue or, what
 5
     do you call the other thing? Religious or
 6
     educational institutions are exempt by their use,
 7
     just by their use.
 8
                Does that create more of a burden on
 9
     the people who do pay taxes?
10
         Α
                No.
11
                No?
         Q
12
         Α
                No.
13
                It doesn't cause the taxpayer's amount
         0
14
     that they pay to go up?
15
                We have not had that issue, no.
16
                So if there were 100 properties in a
         0
17
     municipality and there were no tax exempt
18
     properties, all 100 would pay towards the
19
     municipality's costs for the year; is that
20
     correct?
21
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
22
         Q
                You can answer.
23
         Α
                I don't know what you mean. I don't
24
     know.
25
                I'll restate that. That's very fair.
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     It sounded like a math problem. No problem.
 3
                If the village had all the properties
     where people are paying taxes as opposed to only
 4
 5
     some properties where people are paying taxes,
     wouldn't the taxes be lower if all the people
 6
 7
     were paying tax?
 8
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
                I don't know. I don't have -- I don't
 9
     know because our -- I don't know.
10
11
         Q
                Tell me, what do you know about
12
     Hasidic and Orthodox Jews and their culture?
                Nothing.
13
         Α
14
         0
                Nothing?
15
                I've never been part of the
16
     organization, so I don't know anything. I don't
17
     know.
18
         0
                Have you heard of the words keeping
19
     kosher?
20
         Α
                Yes.
21
                Do you know what that is?
         0
22
                Yes, I know what that is.
         Α
23
                Can you tell me what it is?
         0
24
                I know that from the library. It's a
25
     food issue where they use certain foods for
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
     certain days and certain -- it's a food -- from
 3
     what I can understand, food cookery. Because we
     get -- I get it at the library. Keeping kosher
 4
     is a particularly culinary art for Jewish people.
 5
     That's what I think.
 6
 7
         0
                You say you get it at the library.
 8
     What is your exact job at the library?
                I'm a reference librarian.
10
                Do you meet a number of Orthodox or
         0
11
     Hasidic people at the library?
12
                I don't know whether they are -- I
13
     meet Jewish. I don't know whether they are
14
     Orthodox or Hasidic. I can't tell the
15
     difference. But we do have, yes.
16
                Can you generally tell who they are
17
     based on how they dress?
                I don't -- no.
18
         Α
19
                So how do you know that they are
         0
     Orthodox?
20
21
                Because they will come and ask for
         Α
     something that has to do with what they are
22
23
     looking for. As a reference librarian you go and
24
     try to find information.
25
                Have you ever heard the word mikvah?
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                I've heard mikvah, but I don't know
         Α
 3
     what it is.
                What about the word shul?
 4
         0
 5
         Α
                Yes, I've heard the word shul.
 6
         0
                Do you know what it is?
 7
         Α
                But I've never been to shul, I don't
 8
     know.
                Do you know what a shul is?
10
         Α
                I know a shul is a religious group,
11
     but I don't know anything more than that.
12
                Are there more Hasidic and Orthodox
13
     Jews in the area than when you first got here in
14
     1962?
15
                I would say yes. From what I can
16
     understand, there's a couple of villages.
17
                Tell me, what do you mean by a couple
         Q
18
     of villages?
19
         Α
                We have New Square. I understand
20
     that's -- I don't -- I have never been, I don't
21
     go there. But I understand that's a purely
     Jewish village.
22
23
                What else makes you think there's more
24
     now than there were before?
25
         Α
                Well, there have been two or three
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     villages that have formed that I'm to understand
 3
     they were run by the Jewish faith.
                Do you have any opinion about that?
 4
         0
                Live and let live, no.
 5
         Α
 6
         0
                What about, has anyone ever expressed
 7
     any opinions to you?
 8
                About what?
                About the fact that there's more
 9
10
     Orthodox and Hasidic Jews in the county?
11
         Α
                No. Welcome everybody.
12
         Q
                Do you read the Journal News?
13
                Yes, I read the Journal.
         Α
14
         Q
                Do you not like the Journal News, is
15
     that why it's funny?
16
                No, we read the Journal News.
17
     a little bit of a quirk.
18
         0
                Do you ever visit its website?
19
                Of the Journal News?
         Α
                Yes. LoHud I think it's called.
20
         Q
21
         Α
                No.
22
         Q
                You just read the physical paper?
23
                Yes, when it comes out. They throw it
24
     in the driveway.
25
                Do you ever get correspondence from
         Q
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
     village constituents?
 3
                Written to me personally? No, not as
         Α
     a person, no. Not as a person, no.
 4
                Have you ever spoken to the media
 5
 6
     about land use issues in the village?
 7
         Α
                No, ma'am.
 8
                Do you ever speak to the media when
     you're running for office?
10
         Α
                Yes. We have a meet the candidates
11
     night or meet the candidates day, whatever.
12
                When is the last time you ran for
         0
     office?
13
14
         Α
                About three years ago.
15
                Did you run on a ticket with anybody
         Q
16
     else?
17
                Yes, I ran with -- two of us ran
         Α
18
     together.
19
                Who was the other person?
         0
20
         Α
                Ian Banks.
21
                Did you run with him other times
         O
     before the last one?
22
23
                The time before, yes.
24
                Did you guys have a platform that you
25
     were running on?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Platform, I don't think so.
         Α
 3
                Was there a political party that you
         0
     were associated with?
 4
                Yes, it was called like the Green
 5
 6
     Party. It was not a -- the village is not
 7
     partisan, so it's not --
 8
                The party that you were running with,
     did it have any sort of principles that it was
10
     standing for?
11
         Α
                Yes.
12
                Do you know what they were?
         Q
13
                Yes, we wanted to continue in the
         Α
14
     positions in which we held as trustees of the
15
     Village of Pomona.
16
                Why did you want to continue?
17
                Because we also believed it was a
         Α
18
     civic duty.
19
                Have you ever posted on any Internet
     forum or column or blog?
20
21
         Α
                No.
22
                Are you aware of the lead plaintiff in
23
     this case, the Congregation Rabbinical College of
24
     Tartikov?
25
                What does that mean?
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Have you heard of it?
         0
 3
                MR. PELOSO: Have you heard the name?
                Yes, I have heard the name, but I've
 4
         Α
 5
     never seen anything.
                When you say you've never seen
 6
         Q
     anything, what do you mean?
 7
 8
                I've not put on any election material
     or anything, no.
10
                But you've heard of the college?
         0
11
                I've heard of it, yes.
         Α
12
                Are you aware of what they intend to
         Q
     build on the property that they own?
13
14
         Α
                No, I've not seen an application, no.
15
                Just to make sure we are on the same
         0
16
            When I say for the rest of the day, when I
17
     say the property do you know the 100 acre parcel
18
     of property that is owned by Rabbinical College
19
     of Tartikov?
                Do I know where it is?
20
         Α
21
         0
                Yes.
22
         Α
                Yes.
23
                So when I say the property, we both
         Q
24
     understand that we're talking about that piece of
25
     property, right?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                Okay, I just want to make sure we are
         0
 4
     on the same page.
                So you say you've never seen an
 5
 6
     application?
 7
         Α
                No.
 8
                But have you heard about what they
         0
     intend to build?
10
                Directly, no.
         Α
11
                What do you mean directly?
         Q
12
                I mean no one has come to say, Alma,
13
     we are going to do this or that, no.
14
                What about indirectly?
         Q
15
                I've heard this was going to be an
16
     intent just generally, but I don't know anything
     specific.
17
18
         0
                What have you heard was intended?
19
         Α
                To build a school.
                Do you know what kind of school?
20
         Q
21
                No, I didn't see an application so I
         Α
     can't make that determination.
22
                Right. But you said informally you
23
24
     heard things.
25
                I heard that it was going to be -- it
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     was a camp and it was going to be a school.
     That's all I know.
 3
                But you don't know if it was going to
 4
         0
     be a Jewish school?
 5
                I don't know -- until I see the
 6
         Α
 7
     application I don't know what the parameters are.
 8
                Right. No, I understand that you
     haven't seen an application. But you said you
10
     heard things informally. So I'm trying to get a
11
     sense of what you heard informally.
12
                No, I don't know anything about what
13
     they were going to put there.
14
                Have you seen the Complaint in this
         Q
15
     action?
16
                What Complaint?
17
                There was a Complaint that was filed
         0
18
     that makes certain allegations. It's what starts
19
     the lawsuit. Have you ever seen that Complaint?
20
         Α
                No.
21
                You understand it's called
         O
22
     Congregational Rabbinical College, correct, the
23
     name of the plaintiff? It has the words
24
     rabbinical college.
25
         Α
                I didn't see the Complaint, so I don't
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     know.
 3
                But you said you've heard of the
         0
     plaintiff. So you understand it has the words
 4
     rabbinical college in the name?
 5
 6
                MR. PELOSO: You can answer yes or no.
                No, I don't know.
 7
         Α
 8
                You've never heard the words
         0
     rabbinical college used in reference to the
     plaintiff in this case?
10
                Heard and seen, I don't know. I mean
11
         Α
12
     I don't know that I have ever taken any -- I
     don't know.
13
14
                Who do you think owns the property?
15
                I thought it was a group of persons
16
     that bought the property from the camp and there
17
     it sits.
                What do you think they want to do with
18
         0
19
     it?
                I'm waiting for the application.
20
         Α
21
                Has anyone ever come to a meeting
         O
22
     representing the owner and said that they have
23
     any plans for the property?
24
                I was not -- I don't know of any
25
     plans.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Do you know who Paul Savad is?
         0
 3
                Yes.
         Α
                Who is he?
 4
         0
                He's an attorney here in town.
 5
         Α
 6
     think we are sitting in his place, right?
 7
         0
                Yes, you are sitting in his place.
 8
     might walk through the door any minute.
 9
                So do you recall him coming to at
10
     least one village board meeting?
11
         Α
                Yes, I think I've seen him once or
12
     twice.
13
                Do you remember what he talked about?
         0
14
                No, I don't remember at this point.
         Α
                Did you ever receive letters from him
15
         0
16
     requesting to speak informally about developing
17
     the property?
18
                MR. PELOSO: Are you talking about
19
         Miss Roman personally?
20
         Q
                Well, as a trustee.
21
                MR. PELOSO: Okay, fine.
22
                I don't recall anything.
         Α
23
                Are you familiar with the Patrick Farm
         0
24
     development?
25
                Familiar, I don't know anything about
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     that either.
 3
                Is the village a party to a lawsuit
         0
 4
     about Patrick Farm?
                What do you mean a party to a lawsuit?
 5
                Is there a lawsuit that the village is
 6
         0
 7
     in that has to do with Patrick Farm?
 8
         Α
                Yes.
                Can you tell me about that?
         0
10
         Α
                No, it was just -- we and several
11
     other municipalities joined in with an objection.
12
     I think it was -- I don't know the details.
13
                Did you vote in favor?
         0
14
                Of the Patrick Farms?
         Α
15
                Of the lawsuit.
         0
16
                Yes.
         Α
17
                How come?
         Q
18
         Α
                Because I thought that the essence was
19
     it would not be able to handle the
     infrastructures because it was bordering our
20
21
     village. I thought it was an environmental
22
     issue.
23
                What kind of things made it an
24
     environmental issue?
25
         Α
                Water, sewage, air, everything.
```

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. What concerns do you have about this 0 3 property particularly? It borders the village. It's the next 4 Α property to the village. That's the only reason. 5 6 Do you generally oppose any 7 development that borders the village? 8 MR. PELOSO: Object to the form, 9 vaque. 10 Α No, I don't generally do anything. 11 But so how come this property? Q 12 No, it came to our attention, and 13 several other villages, that this was going to 14 have an impact on the environmental issues in 15 that it has to do with water, it would have 16 something to do with the wetlands, it had 17 something to do with sewers, it had something to do with roads. And I didn't think that we could 18 19 entertain the amount of housing that would come from Patrick Farm. And it would be -- because 20 21 the water table, the water, you know, is what it I didn't think we could -- I don't think it 22 23 would be in the best interests of the 24 environment, which is next door, for us to not 25 object to that kind of development.

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Have you heard of Preserve Ramapo?
         0
 3
                Yes.
         Α
                Can you tell me what it is?
 4
         0
 5
         Α
                No.
 6
         0
                No?
 7
                I don't know what it is. I'm not a
         Α
 8
              I saw Preserve Ramapo on a sign. I
     don't know what it is.
10
                So you said you're not a member of
         0
11
     Preserve Ramapo?
12
         Α
                No, I'm not a member.
13
                Did they ever contact you?
         0
14
                No, they have not contacted me.
         Α
                What about Rosa For Rockland?
15
         Q
16
                What?
         Α
17
                Rosa For Rockland, R-O-S-A.
         Q
18
                I don't know that name.
         Α
19
                What about Power of Ten?
         0
20
                I don't know. That's in a book
         Α
21
     somewhere, the Power of Ten. It has nothing to
     do with us.
22
23
                Are you a member of any other local
24
     group or organization?
25
                Salvation Army.
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
                Are you familiar with the former owner
         0
 3
     of the property Camp Dora Golding -- Withdrawn.
 4
                Do you know that the property was once
     owned by Camp Dora Golding?
 5
 6
         Α
                Yes, it was on the map.
 7
         0
                It's on the map in village hall,
 8
     right?
 9
         Α
                Yes.
10
         0
                Are you familiar with how they use the
11
     property?
12
                It was a camp.
         Α
13
                Do you know whether it was a Jewish
         0
14
     camp?
15
         Α
                It didn't say that on the map.
16
                Do you know why they eventually left
         0
17
     the property?
18
                    I mean that would be something I
         Α
19
     couldn't know.
                Do you know who they sold the property
20
         Q
21
     to?
22
                No, I didn't have anything to do with
         Α
23
     that transaction.
24
                Have you heard of Yeshiva Spring
         0
25
     Valley?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                What can you tell me about Yeshiva
         Q
     Spring Valley?
 4
 5
                MR. PELOSO: Objection, vague. You
 6
         can answer.
 7
                Yeshiva Spring Valley is a yeshiva
     that's on Main Street. I pass it every day. And
 8
     they have a school.
10
                Do you recall that they wanted to
         0
11
     build in the Village of Pomona?
12
                No, I didn't have any application for
13
     Yeshiva of Spring Valley.
14
         Q
                That they wanted to build on the
15
     property?
16
                No, I don't know anything about that.
         Α
17
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
18
         marked.)
19
                (Whereupon, Planning Board Agenda and
         Meeting Minutes, 12/15/99, Bates Nos.
20
         POM0004680-93, was marked Plaintiff's
21
         Exhibit 232 for identification.)
22
                You've just been handed what's been
23
24
     marked Plaintiff's 232.
25
                Uh-huh.
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
                It says on the front page that it's a
         0
 3
     planning board agenda from December 15th, 1999.
     Is that accurate if you go back to the front
 4
 5
     page?
 6
                MR. PELOSO:
                             Is it accurate that it
 7
         says that?
                I have no way of knowing whether it's
 8
 9
     accurate or not.
10
                I'm just saying am I reading what it
         0
11
     says?
12
                It says here, yes.
         Α
13
                If you go to Page 2, it says present.
         0
14
     And the third name down, is that your name?
15
         Α
                Yes.
16
                So does this refresh your recollection
         0
17
     that you were on the Village of Pomona Planning
18
     Board?
19
                I don't recall being on the Village
         Α
20
     Planning Board. I recall being on the planning
21
     board in Ramapo. I don't remember this.
22
         Q
                So you said you recall being on the
23
     planning board in Ramapo?
24
         Α
                Uh-huh.
25
                What time frame was that?
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                That was prior to this. I don't
         Α
 3
     remember this.
                You don't remember being on the
 4
         0
 5
     planning board?
 6
         Α
                No.
 7
                Is there any reason to think that
 8
     these minutes are not correct?
                I don't remember.
10
                But I understand that you don't
11
     remember. But is there any reason to believe
12
     that you weren't on the planning board?
13
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form of
14
         that question.
15
                I don't remember being -- I don't
16
     remember, I just don't remember.
17
         Q But you can't say for certain that you
18
     weren't?
19
                Yeah, I can't. I just don't remember.
     I know those names, but I don't know -- I don't
20
21
     know.
22
         0
                If you could turn to the third page,
     which on the bottom of the pages you'll see
23
24
     numbers POM.
25
         Α
                Third page?
```

1	- Alma Sanders Roman -
2	Q It's 33. But just so we are talking
3	the same language, if you look to the right of 33
4	there's a POM number right where your thumb is.
5	MR. PELOSO: Down here (indicating).
6	Q That's what we lawyers called Bates
7	numbers. Sometimes I may say turn to POM4682.
8	So if you look at the number three it
9	says, Rabbi Fromowitz Yeshiva Spring Valley.
10	A Uh-huh.
11	Q If you could just sort of read that
12	portion of the page starting with number three to
13	yourself.
14	MR. PELOSO: To the bottom of the
15	page?
16	Q Yes. Just look it over yourself. In
17	fact, you know what? Strike that. I'll read it.
18	"Chairman Cook: Rabbi Fromowitz of
19	Yeshiva Spring Valley. Are you Rabbi Fromowitz?
20	"Rabbi Fromowitz: Yes, I am.
21	"Deputy Clerk LaChiana: Rabbi
22	Fromowitz is here on an informal appearance
23	for a private primary school and preschool.
24	He is represented by Dennis Rocks, P.E.,
25	Leonard Jackson Associates, 26 Firemen's

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. Memorial Drive, Pomona, New York." 3 Did I read that accurately? Yes. 4 Α 5 Q And then if I can just read the next 6 part. 7 "Rabbi Fromowitz: I also have with me 8 for your pleasure this evening the architect for the project, David Mayerfeld, the president of 9 10 the school, Joseph Kazamovsky and the chairman of 11 the board, Moshe Finkel. Because we think this 12 is going to be an exploratory meeting with you, 13 so we'd like to have as much input as possible on 14 our side and try to figure out what it is that 15 you are looking for. Okay, we have the narrative 16 as it was presented. Essentially what we are 17 attempting to do is build a school building, a 18 primary school which is kindergarten through 19 eighth grades, on the site that we purchased. The initial project would initial entail a 20 21 building of approximately 100,000 square feet and 22 we tried as best as possible to locate it on the The site has approximately 100 acres." 23 24 Did I read up to that point 25 accurately?

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                MR. PELOSO: Please answer.
 3
                Yes, you read it accurately.
         Α
                Does this refresh your recollection as
 4
         0
 5
     to --
                I don't remember.
 6
         Α
 7
                MR. PELOSO: Let counsel finish the
         question.
 8
 9
                MS. SOBEL: Thank you.
10
                Does this refresh your recollection as
         0
11
     to whether Yeshiva Spring Valley ever made an
12
     appearance about building in the Village of
13
     Pomona?
14
         Α
                No.
15
                I have no more questions on that
         0
16
     document.
17
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
         marked.)
18
19
                (Whereupon, Memorandum dated
         1/14/2000, Bates Nos. POM4314-19, was marked
20
         Plaintiff's Exhibit 233 for identification.)
21
22
                You've just been handed what's been
     marked Plaintiff's 233. If you could turn to the
23
24
     third page. At the top it says Frederick P.
25
     Clark Associates. Do you know who they are?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                Can you tell me who they are?
         0
                They were consultants for the village.
 4
         Α
 5
         0
                It's a memorandum dated January 14th,
     2000 to the Village of Pomona Planning Board; is
 6
 7
     that correct?
                Yes, that's correct.
                It says YSV dash Pomona?
         Q
10
         Α
                Uh-huh.
11
                Do you remember receiving this memo?
         Q
12
                No, I don't. No.
         Α
13
                That's all I have for that document.
         0
14
                When did you first learn that the
15
     property was owned by a rabbinical school?
16
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
17
         0
                You can answer.
                When did I first know? I don't
18
         Α
19
     remember.
20
         Q
                Do you remember ever receiving any tax
21
     exempt applications for the property?
22
                No, I don't recall that. For this
         Α
     Yeshiva of Spring Valley?
23
24
                Not for Yeshiva Spring Valley. Just
         0
25
     for the property, for any owners of the property.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                I don't recall.
         Α
 3
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
         marked.)
 4
                (Whereupon, Email dated 1/9/07 with
 5
 6
         attachments, Bates Nos. POM0013255-59, was
         marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 234 for
 7
 8
         identification.)
                You've been handed what's been marked
10
     as Plaintiff's 234. If you could just take a
11
     look at it for a minute and then I'll ask you
12
     some questions.
13
         Α
                (Complying.)
14
                You don't have to read the whole
         0
15
             If you just look at the front, it appears
16
     to be an email dated January 9th, 2007 with a
17
     subject "Preserve Ramapo: Breaking News."
                Do you know if you've ever seen this
18
19
     email?
                I've never seen this email.
20
         Α
21
                If you turn to the second and third
         O
22
     page, it seems to be -- it's entitled, "Religious
23
     School With 4500 Residents Planned For Pomona."
24
                Do you know if you've ever seen that?
25
                I've never seen that.
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
                Then if you go to the last two pages,
         0
 3
     it appears to be maps and a site plan. If you go
 4
     to the very last page.
 5
         Α
                Yes.
 6
         Q
                Are you missing -- is there --
 7
                MR. PELOSO: You're not on the last
 8
         page.
                Do you know if you've ever seen either
         0
10
     of these?
11
                I don't recall seeing either of these.
         Α
12
                If you can just go back to the second
         Q
13
     to last page. You see it's blocked off and it
14
     says, Site?
15
         Α
                Uh-huh.
16
         0
                Does that appear to be the property as
17
     we are talking about it today?
18
         Α
                Yes.
19
                Okay, that's all for that document.
         0
20
                You said you're not a member of
21
     Preserve Ramapo, correct?
22
         Α
                No.
23
                Do you know who Robert Rhodes is?
         Q
24
                Yes, I know who Robert Rhodes is.
         Α
25
                Who is he?
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                He was my son's camp counselor.
 3
                Do you know who he is with respect to
         0
 4
     Preserve Ramapo?
 5
         Α
                No.
 6
         Q
                Have you ever heard him speak about
 7
     any issues about Ramapo or anything political or
 8
     about land use?
                No, I did not hear him speak.
10
                Do you know if some of the other
         0
11
     people who have run for village office have been
12
     endorsed by Preserve Ramapo?
13
         Α
                I don't know.
14
                Did you have any campaign materials
         Q
     when you ran for office, any fliers that you sent
15
16
     out?
17
                Yes, one flier. It just says, Vote
18
     for Ian and Alma.
19
                Did you give that flier to a lawyer or
20
     anyone at village hall to produce in this
21
     litigation?
22
         Α
                No.
23
                Are you aware of the movement to
24
     incorporate the Village of Ladentown?
25
                Aware of the movement.
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Have you heard of the proposed Village
         0
 3
     of Ladentown?
 4
                I've heard, and it came and it died.
         Α
 5
         0
                In between when it came and it died,
 6
     what can you tell me about it?
 7
         Α
                Nothing.
 8
         0
                Nothing?
 9
                I don't know. I wasn't part of that.
         Α
10
         0
                Did you know where it was proposed to
11
     be?
12
                The Village of Ladentown?
         Α
13
         0
                Yes.
14
                I didn't see the circumference of it.
         Α
15
                Do you have a general idea?
         Q
                General idea, it was on Ladentown Road
16
     is what I would think.
17
18
         0
                Do you know why it was proposed?
19
                No, I don't know that. I can't tell
         Α
20
     you, I don't know that.
21
                Did the village take any steps to
         0
22
     oppose the Town of Ramapo master plan?
23
                MR. PELOSO: At any time?
24
                At any time.
         0
25
                I don't remember. I don't know.
         Α
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Are there any lawsuits against Ramapo?
         0
 3
                I don't know. There are several
         Α
     lawsuits against Ramapo. I don't know.
 4
                You said there were several. Can you
 5
     tell me about some of them?
 6
 7
         Α
                I do know that, you know, another
 8
             It has nothing to do with this. It had
     to do with the ballpark. That's all I can
10
     recall.
11
         Q
                There's a lawsuit about the ballpark?
12
                There was -- yes. I don't know
13
     whether it was a lawsuit or a protest. It might
14
     have been just a protest.
15
                But are there any lawsuits regarding
         0
16
     adult student housing?
17
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
                I don't know.
18
         Α
19
                Do you know what adult student housing
         0
20
     is?
                You mean -- do I know what it is?
21
         Α
22
                Have you heard the term "adult student
         Q
23
     housing"?
24
                I've heard the term, but I've never
25
     seen one.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Do you know if Ramapo changed their
         0
 3
     master plan to allow for adult student housing?
 4
         Α
                I do not know that.
                Have you heard people talk about adult
 5
         Q
 6
     student housing in Ramapo?
 7
         Α
                Talk about it, no.
 8
                Do you have a personal opinion about
         0
 9
     adult student housing?
10
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
11
         Α
                No.
12
                Would you be okay with adult student
         Q
13
     housing in the Village of Pomona?
14
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
15
         Q
                You can answer.
16
                Would you repeat that, because I don't
         Α
17
     quite understand?
18
         0
                Sure.
19
                MS. SOBEL: Can you read it back,
20
         please?
21
                (The question was repeated.)
22
                MR. PELOSO: And I object. But you
23
         can answer the question.
24
         Α
                No.
25
         Q
                How come?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
                Because we -- if it's within the law,
 2
         Α
 3
     I would go whatever the -- you know, within the
     law if we had that, I would go for -- I would
 4
     agree if we had all of the -- if we could
 5
 6
     accommodate any religious institution. I'm not
 7
     putting out anyone. This puts me at a -- as a
 8
     human being I kind of object to that question.
                Okay, I understand.
10
                I'm objecting to -- you know, as a
11
     woman and as an African-American woman I'm
12
     objecting to anybody to exclude anyone. So this
13
     is against my religious ethics. No, I can't do
14
     that, no.
15
                Have you heard of a law called RLUIPA?
         Q
16
                Yes, I've heard of a law.
         Α
17
                What do you know about RLUIPA?
         Q
18
                Not very much.
         Α
19
                Can you tell me what little you have
         Q
20
     heard?
21
                I just heard that it was a federal law
         Α
     that allowed religious institutions to go file in
22
23
     communities where they had not been before, and
24
     that's all I know.
25
                How do you feel about that?
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
         can answer the question.
 3
                You can answer it.
 4
         0
                As a person, as a black American I
 5
 6
     object to any exclusions.
 7
         0
                As a trustee of the Village of Pomona
 8
     how do you feel about it?
                As a trustee of the Village of Pomona
10
     I would adhere to the laws of the Village of
11
     Pomona. But I personally, me personally, I am
12
     not in the board of exclusion.
13
                Are other people?
         0
14
         Α
                Oh, I can't answer for anyone else.
15
     I'm the only black member on the board, so how
16
     would I know what they think?
17
                Did people of the village talk about
         0
18
     RLUIPA?
19
         Α
                No. You know, no, not to me. They
     may have talked, I don't know. Not to me.
20
21
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
22
         marked.)
23
                (Whereupon, Board of Trustees Meeting
24
         Minutes, 2/12/07, Bates Nos. POM0016289-94,
         was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 235 for
25
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         identification.)
 3
                You've been handed what's been marked
         0
     as Plaintiff's 235.
 4
 5
         Α
                Uh-huh.
 6
                It says at the top, Village of Pomona
 7
     Board of Trustees Meeting, February 12th, 2007.
 8
     Is that accurate, that's what it says?
                That's what it says.
         Α
10
         0
                It says adopted April 23rd, 2007?
11
         Α
                Yes.
12
                If you could first tell me, when it
         Q
13
     says adopted does that mean you vote to approve
14
     the minutes?
15
         Α
                Yes.
16
                Do you still do that?
         0
17
                Yes, we still do that.
         Α
18
         0
                If you could turn to the last page.
19
     Actually, I'm sorry. If you could go to the
20
     second to last page. At the very bottom, the
21
     last paragraph. It starts, "Ms. Ulman." I'm
22
     just going to read that. You can tell me if I'm
23
     reading that accurately.
24
                "Ms. Ulman distributed a draft
25
     resolution regarding the Religious Land Use and
```

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) urging 3 Congress to hold hearings on amendments to the act and to obtain testimony from towns and 4 5 villages that are burdened with the improper use 6 of the act. A copy of the resolution is attached 7 to the minutes." 8 Did I read that accurately? Α Yes. 10 Does that refresh your recollection as 0 11 to whether the village ever took any action about 12 RLUIPA? 13 I remembered this part. I don't Α 14 know -- Would you rephrase, because I don't 15 understand what you're asking? 16 Sure. But I think you may not be on 17 the same page anymore. It's was the second to 18 last page. 19 MR. PELOSO: Page 5 of 6? 20 MS. SOBEL: Page 5 of 6, yes. 21 MR. PELOSO: Counsel is asking you the 22 last question again or maybe she'll have it 23 read back. And this is what she read --I just want to know, does that refresh 24 0 25 your recollection as to whether the village took

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. any action regarding RLUIPA? 3 MR. PELOSO: This paragraph. Yes, a copy of the resolution is 4 Α 5 attached, yes. 6 I will represent to you that this is 7 how this was produced to us. It wasn't attached 8 to this. So I know it does say the words that it was attached here. But from what I read, it said 10 it was urging Congress to hold hearings on 11 amendments to the act. 12 Α Yes. 13 Do you remember the village voting on 0 14 that resolution? 15 Α Yes. 16 If you turn to the next page, which is 0 17 the last page, I'll read it. "Trustee Lamer 18 moved the resolution regarding the Religious Land 19 Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) 20 urging Congress to hold hearings on amendments to 21 the act and to obtain testimony from towns and 22 villages that are burdened with the improper use 23 of the act. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sanderson. Motion carried 4 to 1. Trustee Banks voted no." 24 25 Did I read that accurately?

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                Correct.
 3
                And if you turn to Page 1, it does
         Q
     indicate that you were at that meeting, correct?
 4
 5
         Α
                Yes.
 6
         0
                So if the motion carried 4 to 1 and
 7
     Trustee Banks voted no, then you voted yes?
 8
         Α
                I voted yes.
                Why did you vote yes?
10
         Α
                Because I just felt -- let me see.
11
     Now do I remember why I voted yes. I thought it
12
     was the right thing to do.
13
                Why was it the right thing to do?
14
                Because it says that -- because the
         Α
15
     law indicated in the minutes that this is a
16
     federal law that we were trying to, what do you
17
     call it, understand what it was. I don't think
18
     it was very clear to us what it was.
19
     rather.
20
         0
                And it talks about obtaining testimony
21
     from towns and villages that are burdened by the
22
     law?
23
                      I think that was true.
24
                How are towns and villages burdened by
         0
25
     the law?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
         Α
                Because it affected zoning of the
 3
     villages. And that was part of the jurisdiction
     of the Village of Pomona and all the villages and
 4
 5
     they wanted clarity.
                I'm done with that document.
 6
 7
                MS. SOBEL: Why don't we take a ten
 8
         minute break?
 9
                (Recess held.)
10
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
11
         marked.)
12
                (Whereupon, Email dated 7/11/07, Bates
13
         No. POM16958, was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit
14
         236 for identification.)
15
                You've just been handed Plaintiff's
16
     236. If you can look at that. It appears to be
17
     an email from Bob Prol dated July 11th, 2007.
18
                Do you know who Bob Prol is?
19
         Α
                No.
20
         Q
                If you look at the To line.
                Look where?
21
         Α
22
                MR. PELOSO: To, right here
23
         (indicating).
24
                To Rita Louie and -- all right.
         Α
25
         Q
                This was sent to
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     nick.sanderson@pomonavillage.com and a few
 3
     others. You're not listed on here. Do you have
     an email address at pomonavillage.com?
 4
 5
         Α
                Yes.
 6
         0
                Do you know what it is?
 7
         Α
                It's just aroman@pomonavillage, but I
 8
     never use it.
                Do you know if things get sent there
         0
10
     and then would get forwarded on?
11
         Α
                No. I get things through rcls. I
12
     don't get things sent here.
13
                It exists, but you don't use it?
         0
14
                I don't use it.
         Α
15
                That's the only question I have on
         0
16
     that.
17
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
18
         marked.)
19
                (Whereupon, Printout of article, "In a
         Town Divided, a Wispy Boundary Between Land
20
21
         Use and Religion, "Bates Nos. RC1618-19, was
         marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 237 for
22
23
         identification.)
24
                You've been handed what's been marked
         0
25
     as Plaintiff's 237, which says that it's a New
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     York Times article from October 23rd, 2005,
 3
     entitled, "In a Town Divided, a Wispy Boundary
     Between Land Use and Religion."
 4
                Do you know if you've ever seen this
 5
     article? And it doesn't have to be in this form,
 6
 7
     it could have been in the newspaper itself.
 8
         Α
                No.
                The article talks about Patrick Farm.
         0
10
     Can you tell me a little bit about the Patrick
11
     Farm property?
12
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
13
                I don't know anything about the
14
     Patrick Farm, except that it's across the street
15
     from the Village of Pomona.
16
                If you look at the second paragraph?
         0
17
                Yes, okay.
         Α
                Second full sentence says, "Now nearby
18
         0
19
     residents look at Patrick Farm and envision a
     clone of New Square."
20
21
                Did I read that accurately?
22
         Α
                Yes.
23
                And you testified earlier that New
24
     Square is a Jewish village?
25
         Α
                It's a -- yes.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Have you heard people say that they
         0
     look at Patrick Farm and envision a clone of New
 3
 4
     Square?
 5
         Α
                No.
 6
         Q
                Have you ever attended a Ramapo town
 7
     meeting?
 8
         Α
                Yes.
                If you look at the bottom of the first
 9
         0
10
     page it says, "So local board meetings can be
11
     like weddings, with people from New Square and
12
     other Jewish communities on one side of the
13
     room" --
14
                Now I see it.
         Α
                -- "and other residents on the other."
15
         Q
16
                Did I read that accurately?
17
                MR. PELOSO: She's just asking if she
18
         read it accurately.
19
                Did I read it accurately?
         0
20
         Α
                Yes, you read it accurately. I'm
21
     trying to think about it.
22
                              There's no question yet.
                MR. PELOSO:
23
                Have you seen that at town meetings?
         Q
24
                MR. PELOSO: Objection.
25
         Α
                No.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                MR. PELOSO: I object. But you've
 3
         answered already. Just give me a minute
         after the question.
 4
 5
                So you haven't seen people from New
 6
     Square and other Jewish communities separating
 7
     themselves or sitting on the other side of the
 8
     room from other residents?
 9
                MR. PELOSO: Where? I'll object.
10
         0
                Do you understand the question?
11
                No, because -- no, no.
         Α
12
                MS. SOBEL: Can you read back the
13
         question, please?
14
                (The question was repeated.)
                To be clear, we are talking about at
15
         Q
16
     town board meetings.
17
                No, I haven't seen that.
18
                What types of issues have you gone to
         0
19
     Ramapo Town Board meetings for?
20
                Just general meetings, you know.
21
     General meetings, nothing specific.
                What kind of issues have been
22
         0
23
     discussed at these general meetings?
24
                Personnel of whose appointments,
25
     various things like that. Issues that come
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     before about whether or not we could -- whether
 3
     or not they would be able to -- let me see if I
     can even remember. It's so far back I can't even
 4
     remember. Just general stuff about who hires and
 5
 6
     fires and buildings and grounds and that kind of
 7
     thing. It's not much in open meetings that they
 8
     discuss.
                Do they discuss it in closed meetings?
10
         Α
                I don't know. I only have gone to an
11
     open meeting. I never have gone to a closed
12
     meeting.
13
                Are there any accusations that they
         0
14
     discuss things in closed meetings? No, you are
15
     shaking your head no?
16
         Α
                No.
17
                Okay, all right. That's it for this
         0
     document.
18
19
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
20
         marked.)
21
                (Whereupon, Article entitled, "Culture
22
         Clash, "Bates Nos. RC1810-1817, was marked
23
         Plaintiff's Exhibit 238 for identification.)
24
                You've been handed what's called
25
     Plaintiff's 238, which is an article entitled,
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
     "Culture Clash."
 3
         Α
                Yes.
                And it appears both in a looks like a
 4
         0
     magazine form and then a website form is attached
 5
 6
     to that, but it appears to be the same article
 7
     without pictures on the second one.
 8
                Have you ever seen this article?
 9
         Α
                No, I have not.
10
                If you look at the very beginning of
         0
11
     the article under "Culture Clash," it says, "A
12
     booming population of Hasidic Jews and a proposed
13
     rabbinical school threaten to change Ramapo
14
     forever."
15
                Did I accurately say what it says?
16
                Yes, you did.
         Α
17
                Do you know what a rabbinical school
         Q
18
     is?
19
         Α
                No.
20
         Q
                If you look at the first paragraph of
21
     text, it says, "The mood was tense in the
22
     ballroom of the Nanuet Comfort Inn this May.
23
     About 75 people had gathered to listen to a group
24
     of Hasidic Jewish developers, their lawyers and
25
     paid environmental experts explain why the
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     group's intention to build a rabbinical college
 3
     in the heart of Pomona was not as devastating as
 4
     some would make it seem."
                Did I read that accurately?
 5
 6
         Α
                Yes, ma'am.
                              Yes.
 7
         0
                Do you remember that there was a
 8
     meeting in the Comfort Inn in Nanuet?
 9
                I do not, no. I don't know of any
         Α
10
     meeting.
              I wasn't there.
11
         Q
                Did you receive an invitation?
12
         Α
                No.
                You didn't receive an invitation?
13
         0
14
         Α
                No.
15
                Did you know there was going to be a
         Q
16
     meeting?
17
         Α
                No.
                Did you discuss with anybody whether
18
         0
19
     or not to attend a meeting?
20
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
21
         Α
                No.
22
                Was there a village board meeting
         0
23
     where people came back and reported about a
24
     meeting at the Comfort Inn in Nanuet with the
25
     developers of the Tartikov?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                There was no agenda, no.
 3
                I didn't ask if it was on the agenda.
         0
     Nobody came in open period?
 4
                No, nobody came and talked to us.
 5
         Α
                If you turn to the second page?
 6
         0
 7
                Of the "Culture Clash"?
         Α
 8
                      There's a picture. It's blocked
         0
     a little bit by the Bates numbers. But it says,
     Michael Tauber, the developer behind, and it
10
     looks like it's the word the, controversial and
11
12
     it looks like it's the word project. I realize
13
     it's sort of blurry. But have you ever seen this
14
     individual before?
15
                MR. PELOSO: The photo or the person?
16
                The picture.
         0
17
                MR. PELOSO: Have you ever seen the
         picture before?
18
19
         Α
                No.
20
         Q
                Have you ever seen any picture of this
21
     person?
22
         Α
                No.
23
                Do you know who Michael Tauber is?
         0
24
                No, I really don't know who Michael
25
     Tauber is.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2
                Do you know anything about Michael
         0
 3
     Tauber?
         Α
 4
                No.
 5
         Q
                Have you heard of Michael Tauber?
                I don't know a thing about Michael
 6
         Α
 7
     Tauber.
                You say you've never seen this
         0
     article?
                No, I didn't see this article.
10
         Α
11
                Okay, I have no further questions on
         Q
12
     that.
13
                Have you heard people talk about the
14
     birth rate of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews?
                MR. PELOSO: At any time?
15
16
                At any time.
         0
17
                No, they wouldn't, no.
         Α
18
         0
                Do you know anything about the size of
     Hasidic and Orthodox families?
19
                Yes. I just know they are large
20
         Α
21
     families, but I don't have any particulars.
22
                In January of 2007 there was a law
         0
23
     that was voted in the village, Local Law No. 1 of
24
     2007. Do you remember voting in favor of that
25
     law?
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2.
         Α
                Yes.
 3
                Can you tell me anything about that
         Q
 4
     law?
                I don't understand the question,
 5
         Α
 6
     anything about that law.
 7
         0
                Okay. Withdrawn. I'll make it
 8
     simpler for you.
 9
                You said you voted in favor of that
10
     law?
11
         Α
                Yes.
12
                Why were you in favor of that law?
         Q
13
                I think it was -- after discussing it
         Α
14
     I thought that it served the residents of the
15
     village.
16
                Did you listen to what residents had
         0
17
     to say?
                Well, yes, I listened and, you know,
18
         Α
19
     yes.
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
20
21
         marked.)
22
                 (Whereupon, Minutes of Public Hearing,
23
         Pomona Board of Trustees, 1/22/07, Bates
24
         Nos. RC1065-1173, was marked Plaintiff's
25
         Exhibit 239 for identification.)
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                You've just been handed Plaintiff's
         0
     239.
 3
 4
         Α
                Yes.
 5
         Q
                If you look at the front page, it
 6
     says, Public Hearing on Local Law Amendment
     Dormitories (continued), Local Law Amendment
 7
 8
     Wetlands, and it says January 22nd, 2007.
 9
                Uh-huh.
         Α
10
                The Village of Pomona Board of
         0
11
     Trustees. And if you're still on the front page
12
     your name is listed there as trustee?
13
         Α
                Yes.
                And this was transcribed by a court
14
         Q
15
     reporting agency. You see at the bottom Sandy
16
     Saunders?
17
                Yes, I see it.
18
         0
                If you could turn to please Page
19
     RC1139, which is towards the back. If you look
     at Line 19.
20
21
         Α
                Uh-huh.
22
                It says, "Ladies and gentlemen of the
         0
23
     board, discussion on the comments from the public
24
     period (sic) and the local law that is proposed?
25
     Alma?
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                 "Ms. Roman: I'm not prepared to
     comment because I heard so much."
 3
 4
                Did I read that accurately?
                Yes, correct.
 5
         Α
 6
         Q
                Is there any reason to believe that's
 7
     not what you said?
 8
         Α
                No.
                Then if we go to Page 1144.
         Q
10
         Α
                Here.
11
                If you look at Line 13 -- actually,
         Q
12
     I'm sorry. I'm going to go back a little more.
13
     If you go back to RC1142, Mr. Sanderson reads a
     resolution on 1142, 1143 through the beginning of
14
     1144; is that correct?
15
16
                Where is it?
         Α
17
                If you look at 1142, beginning at Line
         Q
18
     18.
19
                Uh-huh.
         Α
                Through 1144, Line 9.
20
         Q
21
         Α
                Uh-huh.
22
                Is that him reading the resolution
         0
23
     into the record?
24
         Α
                Yes.
25
                And then at Line 10 Mayor Marshall
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     asks for a second to the motion?
 3
                MR. PELOSO: On 1144?
                Page 1144. Sorry.
 4
         0
 5
         Α
                I'm getting there. Yes. It was
 6
     seconded by --
 7
                MR. PELOSO: You've answered the
 8
         question.
 9
                There was a second by Mr. Lamer on
10
     Line 12. So beginning on Line 14 Mayor Marshall
11
     says, "On the proposed resolution, all in favor?
12
     Opposed?
13
                "Let the record show the amendment to
14
     the local law dealing with dormitories is adopted
15
     as presented."
16
                Did I read that accurately?
17
         Α
                Yes.
                So you voted in favor of that law?
18
         0
19
                Yes.
         Α
                No further questions on this document.
20
         Q
21
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
22
         marked.)
23
                (Whereupon, Minutes of Pomona Board of
24
         Trustees Meeting, 4/23/07, Bates Nos.
25
         RC1339-1381, was marked Plaintiff's Exhibit
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         240 for identification.)
 3
                You've just been handed what's been
         0
     marked as Plaintiff's 240, which is -- if you
 4
 5
     look at the front page it says, it's a board of
     trustees meeting. It indicates that you were
 6
 7
     there?
         Α
                Uh-huh.
 8
                It was April 23rd, 2007. And it was
10
     transcribed by Sandy Saunders Reporting. If you
11
     could turn to Page 1350. If you look back again
12
     starting at Page 1348, it's a motion regarding
13
     wetlands. You can take the time to look.
14
                I'm at 50.
         Α
15
                MR. PELOSO: They want you to start
16
         looking at 48.
17
                You can take the time to look at it
         0
     and let me know if this is the wetlands law that
18
19
     became Local Law No. 5 of 2007.
20
         Α
                (Perusing document.)
21
                And on Page 1350. So is that the
         O
22
     wetlands law that you just read?
23
                MR. PELOSO: I object.
24
                It's two pages -- I'm not so good at
25
     that.
            I don't know.
```

1 - Alma Sanders Roman -2. If you look at Page 1348, Line 8, 0 3 Mayor Sanderson says, "We now move to adopt or at least discuss the motion concerning the adoption 4 of local law amending the code in relation to 5 wetlands protection." 6 7 Α Yes. Did I say that accurately? 8 0 Α Correct, yes. 10 And then if you look at Page 1348, 0 11 Line 24, it says, "I would like somebody to make 12 the motion that it is resolved that it is hereby 13 determined that the proposed local law entitled 14 local law amending the code of the Village of 15 Pomona, in relation to wetlands protection, will 16 not have a significant adverse impact on the 17 environment for the reasons that by preserving wetlands areas storm water runoff will be 18 19 lessened and storm water will be contained within 20 these areas; water quality will be enhanced 21 because of the natural filtration provided by 22 these areas; the rights of private property 23 owners will be protected because of the due 24 process requirements of the proposed law; and no adverse impacts on traffic, air quality, noise or 25

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     other similar impacts have been identified with
 3
     respect to the adoption of the proposed law, and
     be it further resolved that the proposed local
 4
     law entitled a local law amending the code of the
 5
     Village of Pomona in relation to wetlands
 6
 7
     protection is hereby adopted as amended and
 8
     enacted as Local Law No. 5 2007. And be it
     further resolved that paragraph two of the GML
10
     review later dated January 3rd, 2007 (sic) issued
11
     by the Rockland County Department of Planning is
12
     hereby overwritten for the reasons that the board
13
     of trustees believes that the percentage of lands
14
     to be included in the special permit to permit
     construction within the wetlands area must be
15
16
     considered on a case by case basis within the
17
     standards set forth in the local law."
18
                Did I read that accurately?
19
         Α
                Yes.
20
         Q
                Thank you.
21
                So this is the reading of Local Law
22
     No. 5 of 2007?
23
                Okay, yes.
         Α
24
                And that was the wetlands law?
         0
25
         Α
                Yes.
```

```
1
                    - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Now, if you look at Page 1350, Line 14
         0
 3
     to 15, it says, "Ms. Roman: Thank you very much.
 4
     I've reviewed it."
                Did I read that accurately?
 5
 6
         Α
                Yes.
 7
                Is there any reason to believe that's
 8
     not what you said?
         Α
                No.
10
         0
                Then on Line 22 of Page 1350 it says,
11
     "On the motion, all in favor? Show it passing
12
     five to nothing, to zero. Thank you, members of
     the board."
13
14
         Α
                Yes.
15
                Did I read that accurately?
         Q
16
                Yes.
         Α
17
                So you voted in favor of the wetlands
         Q
18
     law?
19
         Α
                Yes.
                Why were you in favor of the wetlands
20
         Q
21
     law?
22
                To preserve the wetlands.
         Α
23
                How does the wetlands law preserve the
         0
24
     wetlands?
25
         Α
                It prevents people from -- it prevents
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     building on the wetlands.
 3
                On all wetlands in the village?
         0
         Α
                I don't know about all wetlands.
 4
 5
     it says here on a case by case basis. We would
     look at it on a case by case basis.
 6
 7
         0
                You would look at it on a case by case
 8
     basis --
                That's what this says, yes.
         Α
10
                -- for all people who want to build in
         0
11
     the village?
12
         Α
                Yes.
13
                MR. PELOSO: Just give me a chance to
14
         object. Object to the form. You've already
15
         answered.
16
                Do you need her to read it back?
         0
17
         Α
                No.
18
                Why is it important to you to protect
         0
19
     the wetlands?
20
                MR. PELOSO: Personally or as a
21
         trustee?
22
         Q
                Do you understand the question?
23
         Α
                No, I don't.
24
                You voted to --
         0
25
         Α
                Yes.
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                Did you vote personally?
         0
 3
                I voted as a trustee.
         Α
                Why did you think -- you just stated
 4
         0
     that you voted in favor of it because you wanted
 5
     to protect the wetlands.
 6
 7
         Α
                Yes.
                Why do you think that you should be
 8
         0
     protecting the wetlands or that the village
 9
10
     should be protecting the wetlands?
                Because of the environment.
11
         Α
12
                What do you mean by that?
         Q
13
                If you disturb the wetlands, you
         Α
14
     disturb the infrastructure of the village.
15
     is, you have floods, you have -- that's why it's
16
     called the wetlands, because it's a protected
17
     area in the environment.
18
         0
                No further questions on this document.
19
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
20
         marked.)
21
                (Whereupon, Board of Trustees Meeting
22
         Minutes, 3/27/06, Bates No. POM19136, was
23
         marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 241 for
24
         identification.)
                You've just been handed Plaintiff's
25
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     241, which is entitled, "Board of Trustees
 3
     Meeting, March 27, 2006." And you were listed as
     one of the trustees, correct?
 4
 5
         Α
                Yes.
 6
         0
                If you turn to Page 6 of 10 in the
 7
     middle of the page where it says, "B. Planning
 8
     and Zoning," it says, "Attached is a copy from
     Trustee Roman, Chairman of the Ethics Committee
10
     to Rita Louie (sic). Mayor Marshall read a
11
     letter of resignation he received from Rita Louie
12
     regarding her membership on the planning board. A
13
     copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.
14
     Mayor Marshall recommended accepting her
     resignation and he will send her a letter
15
16
     thanking her for her service to the community.
17
     The board was unanimous in accepting the
     resignation from Rita Louie."
18
19
                Did I read that correctly?
20
         Α
                Yes.
21
                I will represent that although it says
         0
22
     attached is a copy of the letter, this was
23
     produced to us as is without an attachment.
24
                Can you tell me about this situation,
25
     what happened?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form,
 3
         vaque.
 4
         0
                You can answer.
                It was -- came before us as a
 5
     resignation from a member of one of our boards
 6
 7
     and we accepted it.
 8
                Why did it come to the ethics
 9
     committee?
10
                Because it was understood that, I
     think -- it was understood or I understood that
11
12
     she had been involved in some building issues in
13
     the Village of Pomona. I don't know what they
14
     were. But you couldn't be on both sides of
15
     the -- you could not be on the planning board and
16
     a village board doing -- it was a conflict of
17
     interest.
18
                Is she a developer?
         0
19
                No, she was a land something or other.
         Α
     But it was conflict of interest.
20
21
                Were there allegations made against
         0
22
     her?
23
                MR. PELOSO: Object to the form.
24
                I don't know.
         Α
25
                Do you know how it got to the ethics
         Q
```

```
1
                  - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
    board?
 3
        A
               Mayor -- anything to do with conflicts
    of interest is referred to the ethics board.
 4
 5
        Q
               Right. But who brought it to --
 6
        Α
               It was the mayor.
 7
        0
               Do you know who brought it to the
 8
    mayor's attention that there was a conflict of
 9
     interest?
10
               No, I don't know who brought it to the
11
    mayor.
        O Did the ethics committee make a
12
    decision?
13
14
        A She resigned so there was no decision
15
    to be made.
16
        Q She resigned before you made a
17
    decision?
18
        A Correct.
19
               Before when we talked about the ethics
        0
20
    board you said you only met once. Is this the
    one time?
21
        A We met this time, yes. This was one
22
23
    of the times.
24
        Q So there may have been a few other
25
    times?
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
         Α
                There may have been a few other times.
     I don't recall at this time.
 3
                Miss Louie is now on the board of
 4
         0
 5
     trustees, correct?
 6
         Α
                Excuse me?
 7
                Miss Louie is now on the board of
 8
     trustees?
         Α
                Yes.
10
         0
                Are there any conflicts of interest
11
     now?
12
         Α
                No.
13
         0
                So whatever action happened then
14
     doesn't exist now?
15
         Α
                No.
16
                Okay, no further questions on this.
         0
17
                MS. SOBEL: (Handing document to be
         marked.)
18
19
                (Whereupon, Board of Trustees Meeting
         Minutes, 3/27/06, Bates Nos. RC1007-16, was
20
         marked Plaintiff's Exhibit 242 for
21
         identification.)
22
23
                You've been handed what's been marked
     Plaintiff's 242, which is minutes from a March
24
25
     27, 2006 board of trustees meeting; is that
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     correct?
               Is that what it says?
 3
         Α
                Yes.
                If you turn to Page RC1015, which is
 4
         0
 5
     the second to last page. I'm going to read.
 6
     says during Trustees Period, "Deputy Mayor
 7
     Sanderson reported on a meeting that he and
 8
     Trustee Roman attended with board members from
     the four villages involved in the two lawsuits
10
     against the Town of Ramapo. It was the consensus
11
     of those present to proceed with the appeal of
12
     the lawsuit which was described as Ramapo II,
13
     which is the lawsuit contesting the validity of
14
     the of the adult student housing local law."
15
                Did I read that accurately?
16
         Α
                Yes.
17
                The "of the of the" was written that
         0
18
     way, not me stumbling, correct? You don't have
19
     to answer.
                So does this refresh your recollection
20
21
     about the Ramapo lawsuit?
22
                Totally forgotten.
         Α
23
                Totally forgotten?
         0
24
                I don't remember.
         Α
25
                Are any of those lawsuits going on
         Q
```

```
1
                   - Alma Sanders Roman -
 2.
     now?
 3
                I don't know.
         Α
                A lawsuit contesting the validity of
 4
         0
 5
     the adult student housing local law. Do you know
     what the adult student housing local law was?
 6
 7
                MR. PELOSO: As it's referenced here?
         Q
                Yes.
 8
                Do you know what it was?
10
         Α
                Do I know --
11
                What the adult student housing local
         Q
12
     law was?
13
         Α
                I don't remember at this point.
14
                But you voted in favor of going
         Q
15
     forward?
16
                No, it was -- I went with the mayor.
17
     But I wanted to hear, but I don't know -- I
     didn't get a copy of that.
18
19
                And you voted in favor of going
20
     forward with the appeal?
21
         Α
                Yes.
22
                Do you remember why?
23
                Because I thought it was in the
24
     interest of all of the towns and villages
25
     concerned. I think it was in our best interest.
```

```
- Alma Sanders Roman -
 1
 2
                How come?
         Q
 3
         Α
                Well, at this point I can't remember.
 4
     But at that time it seemed the right thing to do.
 5
                Do you remember anyone talking about
 6
     adult student housing?
 7
         Α
                No, I don't remember talking about it.
 8
     We just -- no, I don't remember. You know, this
 9
     is 2006.
10
         Q
                Yes.
11
         Α
                It's older than my car.
12
                MS. SOBEL: If we can take a five
13
         minute break, we are going to see if we have
14
         anything to wrap it up.
15
                (Recess held.)
                MS. SOBEL: We're finished. We have
16
17
         no further questions.
18
19
                (Continued on next page so that
                jurat does not stand alone.)
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1	- Alma Sanders Roman -
2	MR. PELOSO: We don't have any
3	questions.
4	(Time Noted: 11:31 a.m.)
5	* * *
6	
7	Alma Candana Daman
8	Alma Sanders Roman
9	Cubaggibad and gwagn to
10	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of , 2014
11	of , 2014
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
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19	
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						00
1						
2			EXHIBITS			
3						
4				For Id	ent.	
5	Pla	inti	ff's Description		ine No.	
6						
7	Ex	230	Notice of Deposition	4	4	
8	Ex	231	Memo dated 8/29/07	16	20	
9			Bates Nos. POM0007310-14			
10	Ex	232	Planning Board Agenda and Meeting Minutes,	46	19	
11			12/15/99 Bates Nos. POM0004680-93			
12	E.v.	222	Memorandum dated	51	19	
13	LX	233	1/14/2000 Bates Nos. POM4314-19	31	10	
14	F√	234	Email dated 1/9/07	53	5	
15	LX	251	with attachments Bates Nos. POM0013255-59	33	3	
16	Par	225	Board of Trustees	60	23	
17	EX	235	Meeting Minutes,	60	23	
18			2/12/07 Bates Nos. POM0016289-94			
19	Ex	236	Email dated 7/11/07 Bates No. POM16958	65	12	
20	E se	227	Printout of article,	66	19	
21	EX	231	"In a Town Divided, a	00	19	
22			Wispy Boundary Between Land Use and Religion"			
23		222	Bates Nos. RC1618-19	7.0	0.1	
24	EX		Article entitled, "Culture Clash"	70	21	
25			Bates Nos. RC1810-1817			

1				
2		EXHIBITS		
3				
4			For Ide	ont.
5	Plaintii	ff's Description	Page/Li	
6				
7	Ex 239	Minutes of Public Hearing, Pomona Board of Trustees, 1/22/07	75	22
9		Bates Nos. RC1065-1173		
10	Ex 240	Minutes of Pomona Board of Trustees	78	23
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15	Ex 242	Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes,	88	19
16		3/27/06 Bates Nos. RC1007-1016		
17		Baccs Nos. Re1007 1010		
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

1 2	STATE OF NEW YORK )
	) ss.
3	COUNTY OF ROCKLAND )
4	
5	
6	I, Gale Salit, a shorthand reporter and
7	Notary Public within and for the State of New
8	York, do hereby certify:
9	That ALMA SANDERS ROMAN, the witness whose
10	examination is hereinbefore set forth, was
11	duly sworn by me and that the transcript
12	of said examination is a true record of the
13	testimony given by the witness.
14	I further certify that I am not related
15	to any of the parties to this action by blood
16	or marriage and that I am in no way interested
17	in the outcome of this matter.
18	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
19	my hand this 6th day of June, 2014.
20	
21	Jale Salet
22	
23	Gale Salit
	Shorthand Reporter
24	
25	

1	Errata Sheet
2	
3	NAME OF CASE: CONGREGATION RABBINICAL COLLEGE OF TARTIKOV -against- VILLAGE OF POMONA, NY
4	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 05/16/2014
5	NAME OF WITNESS: ALMA SANDERS ROMAN
6	Reason Codes:
7	1. To clarify the record.
8	2. To conform to the facts.
9	3. To correct transcription errors.
10	Page Line Reason
11	From to
12	Page Line Reason
13	From to
14	Page Line Reason
15	From to
16	Page Line Reason
17	From to
18	Page Line Reason
19	From to
20	Page Line Reason
21	From to
22	Page Line Reason
23	From to
24	
25	

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